

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Page 1, before the first line, add: - - This is a continuation of application serial no. 08/840,199, filed April 11, 1997, now U. S. Patent 5,990,881, which is a division of application serial no. 08/520,564, now U. S. Patent 5,729,280. - -

Page 19, lines 16 and 17, in each, change "decoder 105" to - - decoder 108--.

IN THE CLAIMS

h1
Cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice.

Add new claims 22-48 as follows:

h2
--22. A method of receiving program information supplied on plural time-offset channels, comprising the steps of:

storing a segment of the program information supplied on one of said channels;
selecting a particular channel;
receiving the program information supplied on said particular channel; and
reading said stored segment of program information while buffering the program information supplied on said particular channel in response to the selection of said particular channel.--

h2
--23. The method of claim 22 wherein said time-offset is equal to the difference between a start-time at which said program information is transmitted on one channel and the start-time at which the same said program information is next transmitted on another channel.--

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--24. The method of claim 23 wherein said program information supplied on said particular channel is buffered by writing said program information into a storage device and reading said program information from said storage device, said reading of said program

information commencing after said stored segment of said program information has been substantially fully read, thereby seamlessly reading said program information.--

--25. The method of claim 23 wherein said stored segment exhibits a time duration substantially equal to the duration of said time offset.--

--26. The method of claim 23 wherein said one channel over which said segment is supplied and said particular channel over which the buffered program information is supplied are the same.--

--27. The method of claim 23 wherein the same program information is supplied simultaneously on said plural time-offset channels, and wherein the program information that is supplied on said one channel commencing at the start time of said program information and continuing until said particular channel is selected constitutes said segment that is stored.--

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--28. The method of claim 27 wherein said stored segment of said program information is read out when said one channel is selected as said particular channel.--

--29. The method of claim 22, wherein said program information is a video program.--

--30. Apparatus for receiving program information supplied on plural time-offset channels, comprising:

 a storage device for storing a segment of the program information supplied on one of said channels;

 a channel selector for selecting a particular channel and for receiving the program information supplied on said particular channel;

 a buffer for buffering the program information received on said particular channel; and

a read out device for reading out said stored segment of program information while said buffer is buffering said received program information in response to the selection of said particular channel.--

--31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said time-offset is equal to the difference between a start-time at which said program information is transmitted on one channel and the start-time at which the same said program information is next transmitted on another channel.--

--32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said buffer buffers the program information received on said particular channel by writing the received program information into a memory and thereafter reading said received program information from said memory, the received program information being read from said memory once said stored segment of program information has been substantially fully read out from said storage device, thereby seamlessly recovering substantially all of said program information regardless of when said particular channel is selected.--

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--33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said buffer includes a hard disk drive.--

--34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said storage device includes said hard disk drive.--

--35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said hard disk drive includes write and read circuits operable at the same time to write to and read from the hard disk drive concurrently.--

--36. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said stored segment exhibits a time duration substantially equal to the duration of said time offset.--

--37. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said one channel on which said segment is supplied and said particular channel on which said program information is received are the same.--

--38. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the same program information is supplied simultaneously on said plural channels, and said segment is formed by storing said program information on one channel commencing at said start time and then, if said particular channel is not selected by the time the start time of said program information on said another channel is reached, replacing the stored segment of program information in said storage device with the program information supplied on said another channel.--

--39. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said readout device commences the read out of said stored segment of program information when said particular channel is selected.--

--40. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said program information is a video program. --

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--41. A method of receiving program information comprising the steps of: storing a segment of the received program information; and reading said stored segment of program information while buffering the program information which continues to be received.--

--42. The method of claim 41 wherein the received program information is buffered by writing said program information into a storage device and reading said program information from said storage device, said reading of said program information commencing after said stored segment of said program information has been substantially fully read, thereby seamlessly reading said program information.--

--43. Apparatus for receiving program information comprising:

a storage device for storing a segment of the received program information;
a buffer for buffering the program information which continues to be received;
and

a read out device for reading out said stored segment of program information
while said buffer is buffering said received program information.--

--44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said buffer buffers the received program information by writing the received program information into a memory and thereafter reading said received program information from said memory, the received program information being read from said memory once said stored segment of program information has been substantially fully read out from said storage device, thereby seamlessly recovering substantially all of said program information.--

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--45. The apparatus of claim 44 wherein said buffer includes a hard disk drive.--

--46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said storage device includes said hard disk drive.--

--47. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said hard disk drive includes write and read circuits operable at the same time to write to and read from the hard disk drive concurrently.--

-- 48. A method of supplying program information, comprising the steps of:

providing the same program information on time offset channels, said time offset being the same from channel to channel so that the start time of said program information on one channel differs from the start time of said program information on another channel by said time offset; and